

Mount Vernon Town Meeting **HOT** Topics Summary

Our District office received and responded to hundreds of different concerns, issues and topics in 2017. Brief summaries on the topics receiving the most communication follows. You can receive updates on these and other issues through the Supervisor's monthly newsletters and on the Mount Vernon District website.

George Washington Parkway Study

In 2018, the National Park Service will conduct a traffic study along the southern portion of the GW Parkway, to include evaluating key intersections between Belle Haven and Mount Vernon Circle. Supervisor Storck and other regional leaders have been calling for safety improvements on the Parkway for decades. The study is anticipated to identify gaps in information and collect new data from residents and roadway users. The goal will be to evaluate key intersections to include Morningside Lane, explore automated traffic enforcement and speed reduction measures. This information will be used to develop recommendations to improve safety along the southern portion of the Parkway. Part of the process will include public engagement to obtain input from stakeholders, residents and other users. In addition to the study, the National Park Service is working to upgrade existing traffic monitoring devices. A final report is expected in late 2018 or early 2019.

Richmond Highway Widening • Embark/BRT

Embark Richmond Highway is an initiative focused on creating a multimodal future for the Richmond Highway Corridor. Phase one of this project will widen Richmond Highway from Jeff Todd Way to Napper Road from four lanes to six, as well as provide separate bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on both sides of the highway. The project will also preserve the median width necessary to accommodate future planned Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) for dedicated bus-only lanes. Throughout 2017, the Embark Richmond Highway Advisory Group, composed of engaged citizens, has reviewed development plans and proposals, land use concepts, affordable and workforce housing concerns, projected public facilities needs and policy, and environmental and heritage issues. Most importantly, County staff, with Advisory Group input, has drafted language to amend the County's Comprehensive Plan to provide more detailed guidance for the implementation of transit in the corridor. Many public meetings were held in 2017 by both Supervisor Storck and the County to keep the community informed and engaged. A public hearing on this amendment language will be held on March 20, 2018 at the Board of Supervisor's meeting at the Government Center. A third County public information meeting will be held in spring 2018 and construction is scheduled to begin in Spring 2023. For more information, visit: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/embark-richmond-highway>.

Original Mount Vernon High School (OMVHS)

Fairfax County is exploring future uses for the original Mount Vernon High School campus and surrounding property at 8333 Richmond Highway. OMVHS was built in 1939 and leased to the Islamic Saudi Academy from 1985 to 2016. OMVHS reuse project supports our Economic Success Plan and Embark Richmond Highway. Many possible options are being considered, such as:

- Using the campus for economic development activities, like a new business incubator or maker spaces;
- Creating housing;
- Providing educational opportunities from early childhood development to lifelong learners;
- Offering nonprofits or others space for delivering services.

In 2017, the County sought competitive bids for firms to create a master development plan for the OMVHS site. The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on December 5, 2017, to consider an interim agreement with The Alexander Company to create this plan. Final Board action is expected on February 6, 2018. The project will develop over three distinct phases: immediate, interim use, and long term reuse. Multiple public engagement opportunities will be provided throughout this process. For updates, visit: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/original-mount-vernon-high-school>.

Liberty Lorton

Transformed from the Lorton Reformatory and a property on the National Register of Historic Places, Liberty is a new, urban village planned to be a vibrant hub of community residences, workplaces, shopping, and green space. The growing community currently has new homes for sale and apartments for rent. In the coming months, Liberty will include retail space, room for a restaurant and a grocery store. Commercial space is available for lease inside the old Power House and the Chapel. Phase 2 of construction will include rehabilitation of the prison wall and towers, cell block buildings, dining hall and guard's quarters, and eventually new construction of additional retail space. Commercial leasing for a grocery store, brewery or restaurant and smaller retail locations is underway. For more information, visit: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/liberty-opens-its-doors-for-new-residents-at-former-lorton-prison/> or Liberty's website at thelibertylife.com.

North Hill Development

The North Hill property is a 33-acre unimproved parcel on the east side of Richmond Highway near the intersection with Lockheed Boulevard, which has long been planned for use as an affordable housing development and a county park. The Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority has put together a public-private partnership with CHPPENN I, LLC that will transform North Hill by keeping 1/3 as a park, developing 1/3 into mixed income and affordable multifamily rental apartments, and 1/3 as for-sale townhomes. In early 2017, this parcel was rezoned to allow for a 12-acre park and construction of up to 279 multi-family rental units in six separate, high quality, urban designed buildings with structured parking. Of the 279 units, 70% will be workforce housing, 20% will be senior housing and 10% will be affordable housing. The for-sale townhouses will be at market rate, but a portion will offer affordability below market rate prices for first time home buyers. For more information, visit:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/housing/communitydevelopment/north-hill>.

South County Police Station and Animal Shelter

In 2015 Fairfax County residents voted to approve a Public Safety Bond to include funds for the construction of a new police station and animal shelter in South County. In 2017, Supervisor Storck formed a community steering committee to provide input into the process and the County began work on this \$30 million project. Decisions to date include co-locating the two facilities and site selection on the "triangle lot" at the corner of Lorton Road and Workhouse Way. Next steps include site design, permitting, zoning and construction bid preparation.

Lorton Community Center

In November 2016, Fairfax County voters approved the Human Services and Community Development Bond, which includes \$18.5 million in funding for a new community center in Lorton. When complete, the Lorton Community Center will provide a broad array of services, programs and activities for individuals of all ages and abilities throughout our community. It will be a two-story 33,000 sq. ft. building with a gymnasium, and the new home for the Lorton Community Action

Center and the Lorton Senior Center. In 2017, Supervisor Storck formed a community steering committee to provide input on the location and to guide the development process for the Community Center. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by early 2022. For more information, visit: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/lorton-community-center>.

EnviroSolutions, Incorporated (ESI) CDD Landfill

The ESI Construction and Demolition Debris (CDD) landfill is required to stop accepting debris by the end of 2018, with the post closure process expected to take two years. After 2020, there is a 10-year post closure monitoring process, where the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will continue to monitor the site for leachate, ground water, gas emissions and cap monitoring to ensure compliance with permit regulations. After this period, DEQ can sign off on the ESI permit, at which time monitoring ceases and the property becomes a dormant landfill. Supervisor Storck has been meeting with ESI, County leadership and the community to ensure ESI meets the requirements of their Special Exception Application which includes landscaping, community access and park facilities.

Airplane Noise

Since April 2015, Mount Vernon District residents have been subject to continuous high noise levels from aircraft flying over their communities, after the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) implemented a new satellite navigation system "NextGen". In the Summer of 2016, Congressman Beyer and Supervisor Storck organized a community meeting with MWAA and the FAA to discuss the concerns for the south flow changes. After almost a year of continued noise issues and no changes to flight patterns, residents and Supervisor Storck's office came together to form the South Flow Alliance. The South Flow Alliance is a group of concerned citizens working to reduce aircraft noise pollution over their communities and to educate community members on what they can do to help bring attention to this issue. Based on citizen concerns, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) Working Group has made recommendations to the FAA to alter flight paths to and from Reagan National Airport in an effort to address this issue. The FAA has agreed to alter departure flight patterns to keep planes over the Potomac River longer to achieve a higher altitude before turning over communities. The new departure procedure will require testing, public outreach and environmental assessment, with possible implementation for Summer 2018. While the FAA is working to address departing flights, they have not addressed arriving flights. Unfortunately, we are at an impasse with FAA on a new arrival procedure, but this is an issue Supervisor Storck will continue to push the FAA to resolve.

To view the specifics of the recommendations from the MWAA Working Group, visit:

http://www.flyreagan.com/sites/default/files/reagan_national_working_group_recommendation_8_as_approved_27_july_2017_1.pdf.

Supervisor Storck encourages anyone affected by this issue to stay engaged in efforts to address these concerns. You can do so by liking "the South Flow Alliance" on Facebook. This group has been and will continue to have update meetings to keep the community energized and informed. **Flying too low, let them know! Report planes that are too loud or too low at:** <http://viewpoint.bksv.com/dca3>.

Park Police and Bijan Ghaisar Shooting

On November 17, 2017, a tragic incident began along the GW Parkway and ended with the U.S. Park Police shooting of Fairfax County resident Bijan C. Ghaisar. Mr. Ghaisar died from his wounds ten days after the shooting. Fairfax County Police responded to the scene, but did not discharge their weapons. Subsequently the investigation has been turned over to the FBI, but to date very little information has been released to the public. While the Fairfax County Police in-car video was released by Fairfax County on January 24, 2018, it does not tell the whole story. Based on Supervisor Storck's Board Matter at the December 5, 2017, Board of Supervisor's meeting, the Board sent a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray demanding complete transparency in the FBI's investigation and for information to be released to the public as quickly as possible, especially for the family and friends of Mr. Ghaisar. The Supervisor will continue to advocate for transparency and the swift release of information in this and all police matters.

Mount Vernon Antique Center Fire/Thieves Market

In December, the Mount Vernon Antique Center, formerly known as Thieves Market, caught fire and partially collapsed. The fire appears to have started in one of the rear corners of the building and the cause of the fire is unknown at this time. Built in the 1940s, the building was a constant, housing various businesses from antique dealers to computer repair businesses. Supervisor Storck continues to work with County staff to demolish the remaining structure.

Opioid Disposal

As the opioid epidemic grows throughout the country, communities are actively looking for ways to help curb abuse and misuse. New this year, Supervisor Storck's office now provides free drug deactivation kits. In addition, Walmart has launched a first-of-its kind opioid disposal solution, available at no cost, in all company pharmacies. Walmart also continues to offer counseling to Walmart patients on proper opioid use when filling an opioid prescription at any one of its 4,700 pharmacies nationwide. Stop by any of these locations to pick up your disposal kit today!